

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending, Claims 1-4 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071540 (Dworkin), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352 (Dailey et al.) and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071540 (Takagi et al.).

In reply, each of the independent claims has been amended to add the feature of a generation unit (or computer-implemented step) that generates the group chat space for a second period of time that is longer than said first period of time. The claims have further been amended to specify that the second period of time commences earlier than and ends later than said first period of time. Support for this feature is found in the specification, for example page 10, first full paragraph, and therefore no new matter is added.

Thus, Claim 1, for example, includes a feature in which the group chat space is opened for a longer period of time than the reservation made for the first service, and begins before and ends after the first service. An advantage of this feature is that it enables users to start a chat session in advance regarding the content of the live distribution, which is scheduled to be recorded at the start time of the reservation. It also allows the user to continue the chat for a predetermined time after the first service has ended. Because the information processing server manages both the first service and the second service, and both the first time period and second time period are set based on reservation information for the first service, it is possible for the server to keep track of the first and second services and provide files for the first and second services to the respective terminals at the conclusion of

the first period of time and the second period of time. Moreover, the server can send the streaming contents to the respective terminals which concludes at the end of the first period of time, followed by a sending of the shared file of the group chat space after the conclusion of the second period of time.

Dworkin, operates on a different principle, namely reservation conferencing done by way of “sign up sheet” for scheduling and publishing of available conferences. Although instant messaging is available through ASP-hosted services, or third-party services, Dworkin neither contemplates, nor provides the capability, of automatically generating a chat space a predetermined time prior to a start time for said reservation and continuing for a longer period of time after the conclusion of the conference. Moreover, Dworkin does not provide the coordination of first and second time periods, nor the triggering of the start and end of a group chat session based on a reservation for a first service. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Dworkin neither teaches nor suggests all of the features of amended Claim 1.

The Office Action cites Dailey (e.g., col 5, lines 17-24) for the proposition that Dailey describes teaching a chat space that is generated a “predetermined time” prior to a distribution start time. This passage in Dailey describes the distribution of meeting reminder, which initiates a virtual meeting utility. However, Dailey does not fairly describe the generation of a chat space that extends for a time beyond the distribution end time. Moreover, Claim 1 has been amended to require “said generation unit configured to generate said group chat space for a second period of time that is longer than said first period of time, said second period of time commencing earlier and ending later than said first period of time.” This feature and the advantages associated with it are absent in Dworkin, and Dailey.

Takagi is alleged to teach the storing of a shared conferencing file and chat file. Assuming arguendo that this is correct, Takagi still does not cure the deficiency with respect to Dworkin, and Dailey.

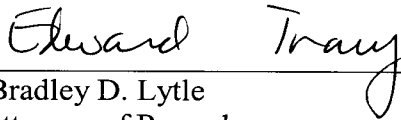
As neither Dailey nor Takagi cure the deficiencies with regard to Dworkin, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over the combination of Dworkin, in view of Dailey and Takagi.

Although of differing statutory class and/or scope, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-4, as amended, patentably define over the asserted prior art for substantially the same reasons discussed above with regard to amended Claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the forgoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-4, as amended, patentably defines over the asserted prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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